

Ahmedpur, Mohd. Bazar and Mayureshwar by June, 1997.

3. 120 more villages will be provided with Public Telephones by April, 1997.

Airports Running in Losses

4103. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) is it a fact that 81 Airports are running in losses due to non-availability of adequate tariff;
- (b) if so, the amount of losses incurred during the last 2 years, port-wise; and
- (c) the steps being proposed to rectify the situation and make these Airports profitable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. The losses are mainly due to inadequate traffic revenue.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of Pant Nagar Airport

4104. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHADA' : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for keeping the airports situated at Pantnagar in Kumaun Division in Uttar Pradesh closed for flights;
- (b) whether efforts are on for opening this airport for domestic flights; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Pant Nagar Airport belongs to the Airports Authority of India and has basic infrastructure for sustaining operations of Dornier type of aircraft. The airport is operational and airlines/private operators are free to operate flights to/from this airport.

[English]

Extension of Financial and Performance Guarantees

4105. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has asked two basic telecom companies holding letter of intents (Lols) to extend their financial and performance guarantees which are likely to expire by the end of March, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor;

- (c) the response of the companies holding Lols;

(d) the terms and conditions at the agreements by DOT and Lols;

(e) whether the Lols have asked the DOT that the concessions accorded to other basic Telecom Companies be made applicable to them;

(f) if so, the details in this regard and Government's response thereto; and

(g) the terms of agreements with other Telecom Companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (g) Two out of four companies holding valid Letters of Intent (LOI) have signed the Licence and Interconnect Agreements. However, the LOI holding companies raised certain issues pertaining to Assignability of Licence, Application of Force Majeure, Arbitration procedures, Interconnection charges etc. and requested the Government to modify the Agreement documents. The Government has considered and resolved these issues suitably. The two companies which signed the Licence and Interconnect Agreements had approached the Government with a request that modifications proposed to be carried out in Licence and Interconnect Agreements should be made applicable to them also and the Government agreed to their requests.

[Translation]

Telephone Booths in Urban Areas

4106. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI ANAND RATAN MAURYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure for allotment of ISD/STD/PCO to unemployed and handicapped youths in the country;

- (b) if so, the status of the proposal;

(c) the applications received during 1996-97 so far, state-wise; and

(d) the number of them processed so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the existing procedure for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO is quite simple. However, the procedure for constitution of STD PCO Allotment Committees has been recently modified.